



CENTER FOR IMPROVING
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August 18, 2011

Dear Colleague:

The Colorado All Payer Claims Database continues to move ahead towards implementation. Next week, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing will hold its final hearing about the draft data submission rules. These rules describe how data will be submitted to the APCD and how the data may be used, as described in HB-1330. Most importantly, these rules provide the timeframes for data to flow into the APCD. Instructions about downloading or obtaining copies may be found at this link:

<http://www.civhc.org/CIVHC-Initiatives/Data-and-Transparency/All-Payer-Claims-Database/All-Payer-Claims-Database-Rule.aspx>.

The public hearing about the rules will be held on August 24; additional information about time and location is also available at the link.

The revised draft of the rules reflects public comment and input from members of our health care community, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Office of the Colorado Attorney General. Their contributions have been invaluable in achieving a shared vision of how the APCD will evolve as additional claims data sources are added.

As in the earlier drafts, the rules affirm that the APCD Administrator is responsible for key aspects of the overall APCD and must ensure data security and privacy; establish a data release review committee; and issue reports consistent with the reporting strategy described in the March 2011 report. This draft incorporates some changes that address the concerns that emerged during the public comment period, including:

- State law that prevents carriers from sharing mental health data about clients in small group plans. Carriers noted that submitting claims data for those small group clients would place them in violation of state law. Until the state law is changed, the APCD will not require carriers to submit claims data from their small group clients.
- Submission of self-insured plans' claims information, often managed by third-party administrators. Colorado's carriers raised a concern about such activity coming into conflict with federal ERISA law, which is generally thought to prevent states from requiring reporting requirements that are intended to improve health care quality and efficiency. A few other states have taken approaches that are opening opportunities to collect self-insured data. However, at the outset, the Colorado APCD will concentrate only on the fully insured portion of the health care market for individuals and large groups.

The schedule for data submission is noted in the rules and further explained in the Data Submission Guide. Carriers will be brought "on board" according to a detailed schedule issued by the Administrator. Initial test files will be required by March 30, 2012, and by June 30 2012,

we anticipate having three years of data history and will be ready to kick off the monthly submission process. We look forward to issuing the first set of reports based on APCD data later in 2012.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on October 19, 2011, and we look forward to sharing an update on the progress of implementation to date.

Thank you for your interest in the All Payer Claims Database. I look forward to sharing the reports with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kalin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

Philip B. Kalin
President/CEO

